

Changes demanded at animal shelter

By John Campbell

News - Cramahe Township - A petition is making the rounds of area municipalities to have the Shelter of Hope in Cobourg stop destroying animals that can be saved and put up for adoption.

The shelter also needs to work with local rescue groups to find homes for the animals and to make public how it uses the money it receives from donors, says Laurel Merriam, one of the people involved in the petition, who spoke to Cramahe Township March 5.

The township, which employs Shelter of Hope to impound stray dogs caught in Cramahe, was asked for its support to have the service change its policies and procedures to become a no-kill shelter, in which only animals with life-threatening illness or injury are euthanized.

The shelter's practices "caused quite a stir," Merriam said, when it came to light earlier this year that lost and feral cats delivered into its care were being put down if deemed to be aggressive.

Its manager was suspended for two weeks by the shelter's board of directors after it learned four healthy cats that survived a house fire had been euthanized.

Last month the Joint Animal Control Municipal Services Board suspended euthanasia practices at Shelter of Hope and formed an advisory committee to review its policies and procedures and make its

operations more transparent. The committee will also recruit volunteers, and employ a volunteer network to find potential adopters and deliver the animals to their new homes, as well as hold frequent adoption events.

Shelter of Hope claims to be "providing leadership in the well-being and adoption of domestic animals," Merriam said, but of the 563 animals it took in last year between January and September, 215 cats were destroyed.

"Many are being put down for aggression," she said, but "any animal is going to behave differently if it's in a cage, if it's in an environment that they're not familiar with."

The answer is to turn Shelter of Hope into a no-kill community where "savable" animals are kept alive for adoption. To get there will take ten steps, through measures such as trapping, neutering and releasing feral cats to prevent their population from growing.

"There's an amazing program right here in Colborne called the Cat Care Spay Neuter Initiative" that does that, she said, with the help of Northumberland Veterinary Services.

Merriam said the K9 Crusaders, a local animal advocacy group, is willing to work with Shelter of Hope to "make a difference." Volunteers will assess the animals and help to find their owners or arrange for them to be adopted. They will provide transportation to rescues or new homes, as well as

organize spay/neuter and microchip clinics "to promote responsible pet ownership."

Once a program is in place "you're going to have people wanting to give money because you're doing the right thing," Merriam said.

She works as a transport co-ordinator with an organization based in Quebec called Pound Paws that rescues animals from shelters that are earmarked for euthanasia by paying "pull fees" and placing them in foster care or adoptive homes.

It has "a very very high success rate," she said. "A similar idea could work here in Northumberland" and K9 Crusaders have "already agreed to do that."

Supporters of the petition, which had garnered more than 32,000 signatures online by mid-February, also want to see the CO2 gas chamber at the shelter destroyed so it can't be used anywhere else.

Injection of barbiturates is a better method of putting down an animal that is sick, injured or dangerous, Merriam said, after every other avenue has been exhausted.

The shelter's board admitted public trust in the shelter "has been very much broken," Merriam said. "We've asked them to ensure that community members know where their donations are going," and that a community representative from each municipality served by the shelter—the others are Cobourg, Port Hope and the townships of Alnwick/Haldimand and Hamilton—be put on the advisory committee.

(With files from Northumberland News)

Deaths Deaths



NORTHUMBERLAND NEWS MAR. 17/15
DAVEY, Ross Allen. Passed away peacefully on March 13, 2015 after a courageous battle with cancer with his wife Shirley at his side. Ross is survived by his beloved wife Shirley. Loving father of Sharon MacMurphy (Scott), Julie Langman (Shawn), Rick Burr, Brian (Shelley), Vincent (Tina) and the late Kathy Scriver (late David). Loving brother of Doris Winter (John). Brother-in-law of Barbara Lane (Ron), Victor French of Alberta. Proud grandfather of 16 and great grandfather of 17. Will be dearly missed and remembered by many nieces and nephews and extended family. Ross was an employee of the Public Works Dept. for 30 years. At Ross's request there will be a private family service at a later date. A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday March 22, 2015 from 1 to 4 pm at the Grafton Legion Br.#580, Highway #2. All family, friends and former co-workers are more than welcome. Memorial donations may be made to Northumberland Hills Hospital Palliative Care or the Grafton Legion Br.#580. Condolences received at www.MacCoubrey.com.

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Coming Events

Coming Events

Obituaries

Obituaries

80th Birthday Party
for
ELLA WEATHERUP



Saturday, March 28, 2015
8 pm - 12
Royal Canadian Legion Hall,
Warkworth
Live Band - Emily Creek
Light Lunch
Best Wishes Only!

*NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY
MAR. 19/15*

BURGESS, Gerald Keith - Peacefully at Northumberland Hills Hospital, Cobourg, in his 81st year. Already missing him are his wife Gayle, daughters Andrea, Kirsten (Ralph), Elaine, son David (Ramona), and grandchildren Ava, Gabriella, Heather, Joshua and Melissa. When his muscle disease caused quadriplegia, his positive outlook and courage were an inspiration to all. He was a pillar of strength and faith, and will be missed by all who knew him. Singer, Organist and Choir Director, Conductor - music was his love. With the Peterborough Singers, Ontario Cathedral Singers, and numerous church choirs for over 50 years - he made beautiful music. Friends may call at **MacCOUBREY FUNERAL HOME, 11 King Street West, Colborne**, on Friday, March 27 from 2-4 p.m. and at **MacCOUBREY FUNERAL HOME, 30 King Street East, Cobourg** from 7-9 p.m. Memorial Service will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, Grafton on Saturday, March 28 at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations to St. George's Anglican Church or Colborne Community Care, will be truly appreciated. Many thanks to the wonderful staff in ICU. Condolences received at www.MacCoubrey.com.

*MAR. 19/15
NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY*

The family of the late **Harold Harnden** would like to express sincere thanks to friends, family and neighbours for their many acts of kindness by way of cards, donations, food and visits. A heartfelt thank you to Donna Rusaw and Kim and Tim Callaghan for hosting and providing a delicious meal between visitation hours. Special thanks, as well, to Dad's friend and PSW, Joan Miller, who filled his last few years with laughter and love; the faithful drivers from Community Care and his beloved Men's Group; his niece, Brenda Chapman, and friend Jennifer Heintzman, who kept a watchful eye on him; the doctors and nurses at Northumberland Hills Hospital; and in dad's own eloquent words, Please thank "Steve Bowskill - pharmacist extraordinaire!" A heartfelt appreciation to Brad Cotter and MacCoubrey's Funeral Home for their expert management of the funeral arrangements and respectful and caring conduct with our family. To Dad's much loved Village of Colborne, a few final words so beautifully penned by his granddaughter, Laura, "Grandpa's hill will be forever rich with his spirit; the birds will be his laughter; the trees his strength and the sweet town of Colborne, his heart."

Sincerely,
The Harnden Family
(Jean, Jim, Ruth and Vali)



Handwritten initials